

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: COMBINED MEDIA REPORT, EVENING, MONDAY, MARCH 17

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NO. 30

NEWSPAPERS:

SATURDAY RESTON LATIMES LED THAT "ISRAEL, IN ITS FIRST
OFFICIAL COMMENT, REACTED WITH EXTREME SKEPTICISM TO CER-
TAIN KEY PEACE PROPOSALS BROUGHT FROM EGYPT FRIDAY BY
SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER. . ."

SUNDAY LATIMES CARRIED POST'S BERGER. RESTON SAID "THE
ISRAELI CABINET SUNDAY ADOPTED THE POSITION THAT SECRETARY
OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER CAN CONTINUE HIS MIDDLE EAST
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT BROAD DIFF-
ERENCES STILL EXIST BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT. . ."

"THE SECRETARY IS EXPECTED TO RECEIVE FRESH IDEAS FROM THE
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ISRAELI SIDE BEFORE HE LEAVES JERUSALEM FOR ASWAN . . .
FOR RENEWED DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT. . . NEGO-

TIATIONS ARE STILL IN AN EARLY STAGE AND ARE LIKELY TO BE DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX IN THE DAYS AHEAD. THE DECISION

AUTHORIZES THE ISRAELI NEGOTIATING TEAM TO CONTINUE TO EXPLORE AND TO SEEK ELABORATIONS OF THE EGYPTIAN POSITION THROUGH KISSINGER'S GOOD OFFICES, ACCORDING TO QUALIFIED GOVERNMENT SOURCES HERE. THESE SOURCES ALSO INSIST THAT THE REFUSAL OF THE CABINET TO EXPAND THE MANDATE OF CHIEF ISRAELI NEGOTIATORS SHOULD NOT BE READ AS A HARDENING OF ISRAEL'S POSITION. IT HAD BEEN THOUGHT IN SOME QUARTERS THAT THE CABINET MIGHT ALLOW ITS NEGOTIATING TEAM BROADER SCOPE THAN THE LIMITED MANDATE APPROVED LAST DECEMBER. . .

"THE LARGER AGREEMENT KISSINGER IS NOW BELIEVED TO BE SEEKING WOULD COVER BOTH THE PASSES AND THE OIL FIELDS IN RETURN FOR CONCRETE EGYPTIAN PLEDGES TO REFRAIN FROM THE USE OF FORCE OVER A SPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME. NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY FOR SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD REQUIRE A SPECIFIC NEW MANDATE FROM THE ISRAELI CABINET. . .

"OFFICIAL ISRAELI SOURCES SAID THE GOVERNMENT REMAINS HOPEFUL ABOUT THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THEY INSIST THAT THE TALKS ARE NOT DEADLOCKED AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT STALLING TO BUY TIME AT THIS POINT. . .

"WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE HAPPENED AT THIS POINT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IS THAT ISRAEL FEELS EGYPT HAS SKIRTED THE ESSENTIAL ISSUE OF GRANTING POLITICAL CONCESSIONS AMOUNTING TO FIRM COMMITMENTS TO RENOUNCE THE USE OF FORCE. IN TURN, THE ISRAELI CABINET AND ITS NEGOTIATING TEAM SEEM TO BE AVOIDING AT THIS STAGE ANY CLEAR INDICATION OF WHAT THIS COUNTRY IS PREPARED TO DO ABOUT THE MILITARY WITHDRAWALS EGYPT WANTS. ACCORDINGLY, KISSINGER PROBABLY IS RETURNING TO EGYPT WITH LESS THAN HE HAS HOPED FOR. . .

"ISRAEL'S WARY APPROACH TO THIS STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS IS ALSO DUE TO A FEELING THAT IT IS BEING PRESSED NOT ONLY BY EGYPT, BUT BY KISSINGER AND INTERNATIONAL OPINION.
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COINCIDING WITH KISSINGER'S ARRIVAL, THE TWO TEL AVIV EVENING PAPERS CARRIED EDITORIALS ENTITLED: 'DON'T PUSH US, HENRY.'

WIRES:

1. AP (SCHWEID, ASWAN) -- ". . . HENRY KISSINGER FLEW INTO ASWAN TODAY WITH WHAT HE CALLED 'SPECIFIC ISRAELI IDEAS AND CONSIDERATIONS' ON A NEW SINAI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. . ."

2. UPI -- "HENRY KISSINGER BROUGHT ISRAEL'S SPECIFIC IDEAS FOR A SECOND STAGE SINAI ACCORD WITH EGYPT BACK TO PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT TODAY AND DENIED HE HAD RUN INTO SERIOUS TROUBLE IN ISRAEL. KISSINGER WAS ASKED ABOUT REPORTS THAT INDICATED HE HAD RUN INTO SERIOUS TROUBLE IN ISRAEL. 'NO,' HE SAID. 'I AM HERE TO BRINGSOME ISRAELI CONSIDERATIONS AND IDEAS AND I LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THEM WITH THE PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER.' . . .

"A SENIOR OFFICIAL ABOARD KISSINGER'S PLANE SAID THE GOING WAS TOUGH, THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE MOVING FORWARD SLOWLY, ALTHOUGH THE MOVEMENT MIGHT BE ENOUGH. HE SAID KISSINGER WAS BRINGING TO EGYPT AN ISRAELI REPLY OF SOME SUBSTANCE THAT HE HOPED WOULD KEEP THE NEGOTIATIONS ALIVE . . .

"THE OFFICIAL SAID THE UNITED STATES COULD SEE HOW AN AGREEMENT COULD BE MADE BUT WAS STILL UNCERTAIN WHETHER IT WOULD BE. KISSINGER SAID AFTER LANDING AT THIS NILE RESORT TOWN HE WAS BRINGING 'SPECIFIC ISRAELI CONSIDERATIONS AND IDEAS' TO SADAT IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS THE EGYPTIAN LEADER GAVE HIM TO TAKE TO ISRAEL LAST FRIDAY. UNDERSCORING THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE DIFFICULT, ONE AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID THEY COULD BE A 'PAIN IN THE NECK.' . . .

"THE OPTIMISM IN EGYPT AND PESSIMISM IN ISRAEL WERE REGARDED AS LARGELY TACTICAL ON THE PART OF BOTH SIDES..."

3. AP (ADDED SCHWEID ITEM) -- "U.S. OFFICIALS SAID TODAY UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER'S NEGOTIATIONS FOR A SINAI SETTLEMENT ARE MOVING SLOWLY AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS TOLD NEWSMEN IN JERUSALEM: 'WE ARE NOT HAPPY YET. THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING.' . . .

". . . KISSINGER INTENDS TO MAKE DAILY SHUTTLE FLIGHTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES THE REMAINDER OF THE WEEK EXCEPT FOR A PROBABLE SIDE TRIP TO RIYADH ON WEDNESDAY FOR A COURTESY CALL ON KING FAISAL. 'I AM NOT GOING TO MAKE ANY GUESSES,' KISSINGER SAID WHEN ASKED HOW LONG HE EXPECTED HIS MISSION TO GO ON. HIS INITIAL ESTIMATE WAS ABOUT TWO WEEKS. BUT A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID EVEN THREE WEEKS MAY NOT BE LONG ENOUGH TO ARRANGE TERMS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL. . .

"ARRIVING AT ASWAN AIRPORT, KISSINGER DENIED WITH A BLUNT 'NO' THAT HE WAS RUNNING INTO DIFFICULTIES. . ."

NEWS MAGAZINES:

1. TIME -- SAYS HAK EFFORTS AT SECOND SINAI AGREEMENT COMPLICATED BY PALESTINIAN AND SYRIAN QUESTION. "KISSINGER WAS RELUCTANT TO HAVE THEM TOO MUCH INVOLVED." HAK MOVED FROM EXPLORATION OF IDEAS TO CONCRETE PROPOSALS, REMAINED OPTIMISTIC. HAK QUOTED "THAT WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS SLOWLY." HE HAD ENOUGH CONFIDENCE TO MAKE A SIDE-TRIP TO ANKARA.

HAK OPTIMISTIC BECAUSE BOTH SIDES KEEPING THEIR IDEAS SECRET, A SIGN THEY WERE BARGAINING IN EARNEST. RABIN CITED THAT THEY "HAVE JUST ENTERED THE FOG," SADAT OFFERED 20 PERCENT CHANCE THAT TALKS WOULD FAIL, OR 80 PERCENT THEY WOULD SUCCEED. PRIVATELY, LANGUAGE WAS BECOMING SOFTER: ISRAELIS SAYING "ELEMENTS OF NONBELLIGERENCY" INSTEAD OF A PACT; EGYPTIANS ASKING FOR "A GESTURE OF PEACE" RATHER THAN MOVEMENT ON ALL THREE FRONTS.

ISRAELI 30/50 PLAN BROUGHT UP AGAIN. THIS SEEN AS A LAST-DITCH PROPOSAL TO SALVAGE THE NEGOTIATIONS IF SHUTTLE FAILED; BUT ISRAEL HAD MORE HOPE IN HAK, EVEN IF HE HAD "LOST SOME OF HIS MAGIC." ARABS SLIGHTLY DISILLUSIONED
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ALSO.

BEGIN TEXT: "VISITING DAMASCUS, KISSINGER WAS FIRMLY LECTURED BY ASSAD, WHO CHARGED THAT THE U.S. WAS AN UNDEPENDABLE FRIEND WHO HAD DESERTED SOUTH VIET-NAM, CAMBODIA, AND TURKEY AND MIGHT ONE DAY DESERT TINY ISRAEL TOO. FOR THAT REASON, ASSAD INSISTED, SADAT WAS A FOOL TO TRUST WASHINGTON TOO MUCH. KISSINGER'S ANSWER WAS THAT THE U.S. DOES INDEED STAND BY ITS FRIENDS AND ALLIES" END TEXT.

PROPOSAL TO JOIN PLO TO SYRIAN COMMAND RECEIVED WITH MIXED REVIEWS, FROM BOTH RADICAL AND MODERATE ARABS. RUSSIANS STILL APPEAR WILLING TO LET HAK SHUTTLE FUNCTION. "THE PROGNOSIS FOR KISSINGER, ALL IN ALL, STILL APPEARED TO BE GOOD."

IN SEPARATE BOX, TITLED THE SHUTTLE "DEUS" AND HIS "MACHINA," SCHECTER REPORTS ON THE TRAVELLING PARTY, OFFICIAL AND PRESS. BEGIN TEXT: "AFTER EACH ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS, KISSINGER CONDUCTS A PRESS BRIEFING. HE REVEALS NO DETAILS, STRESSING INSTEAD THE MOOD OF THE TALKS. HE SHIFTS FROM ON- TO OFF-THE-RECORD, OR BECOMES THE UNSPECIFIED "SENIOR OFFICIAL" WHO BY NOW IS A FAMILIAR PASSENGER. WHEN IT SUITS HIS PURPOSE, HE OBFUSCATES. 'YOU MUST ACCEPT THE FACT,' KISSINGER WILL SAY, 'THAT MANY PROBLEMS YOU WANT TO CLEAR UP AS NEWSMEN ARE THOSE WHICH

AS A DIPLOMAT IT IS IN MY INTEREST TO CONFUSE.' END TEXT.
BOX ACCOMPANIED BY UNFLATTERING PHOTO BY EDDIE ADAMS OF
SECRETARYIN TRUNKS AT ASWAN.

2. NEWSWEEK -- LEADS WITH CONTRAST BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND
ISRAELI NEGOTIATING, SAYS THAT CONTRAST SHOWS DIFFERENCE
IN POSITIONS BETWEEN THE SIDES. "IF THE SECOND-STAGE
PEACE TALKS WERE TO HAVE ANY SUCCESS -- AND THERE WAS
SOME OPTIMISM LAST WEEK THAT THEY WOULD -- IT SEEMED LIKE-
LY ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO GIVE UP FAR MORE THAN IT WOULD GET
IN RETURN."

SADAT TOLD HAK OF FOUR DEMANDS: (1) WITHDRAWAL BEYOND
BOTH PASSES AND RETURN OF OIL FIELDS, (2) WITHDRAWAL WAS
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MILITARY AND NOT A PEACE TREATY, (3) NO FORMAL PUBLIC
PLEDGE OF NONBELLIGERENCY, TO ISRAEL OR VIA A THIRD PARTY,
AND (4) ISRAELI VESSELS MOVEMENTS NEAR SUEZ CANAL MUST BE
LIMITED.

ISRAEL HAD DOUBTS OF GIVING UP OIL FIELDS, SINCE SHAH AND
IRAQ MADE UP. NONBELLIGERENCY PLEDGE WAS EVEN MORE TROUBL-
ING, SINCE RABIN DECLARED THIS NON-NEGOTIABLE A MONTH AGO.
BEGIN TEXT: "IN PRIVATE LAST WEEK, ISRAELI LEADERS BEGAN
BACKING OFF THEIR DEMAND FOR A PUBLIC PLEDGE -- SUGGESTING
THEY MIGHT ULTIMATELY SETTLE INSTEAD FOR SUCH "COMPONENTS
OF NONBELLIGERENCY" AS AN END TO EGYPT'S PROPOGANDA AND
ECONOMIC WARFARE CAMPAIGNS AGAINST ISRAEL." END TEXT.
SADAT APPEARED EAGER TO FIND A COMPROMISE SHORT OF A FOR-
MAL PACT. HE MOVED AHEAD TOWARDS OPENING THE CANAL AND
TOOK STEPS TO PREVENT ANY PLO EFFORT TO DISRUPT THE
SHUTTLE.

HAK MADE A HASTY SIDE-TRIP TO TURKEY, SINCE RELATIONS BE-
TWEEN ANKARA AND WASHINGTON SKIDDED AFTER CUTOFF. BEGIN
TEXT: "THE OUTLOOK FOR ANY QUICK MOVEMENT, HOWEVER,
APPEARED BLEAK. WITH TURKEY WARNING KISSINGER THAT RETA-
LIATION AGAINST AMERICAN FACILITIES IN TURKEY MIGHT BEGIN
WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, THE "SENIOR OFFICIAL" ABOARD KISSING-
ER'S PLANE WARNED THAT U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS SEEMED TO BE
HEADING FOR "CATASTROPHE." END TEXT.

HAK PREDICTED TO SPEND AT LEAST A FEW MORE WEEKS IN ALMOST
TOTAL PREOCCUPATION WITH THE ME. EVEN IF AGREEMENT IN
PRINCIPLE IS REACHED, DETAILS WILL REQUIRE MORE SHUTTling.
LIKELY THAT HAK WOULD CELEBRATE BOTH MUHAMMAD'S BIRTHDAY
AND PASSOVER IN ME.

IN SEPARATE ARTICLE ON CONGRESSIONAL RESISTANCE TO MORE
AID FOR CAMBODIA, FOLLOWING GRAF LEADS ARTICLE:

"THOUGH IT'S EASY TO SEE THROUGH HIS FAVORITE DISGUISE,
HENRY KISSINGER FREQUENTLY INSISTS ON BEING IDENTIFIED
ONLY AS 'A SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL,' AND LAST WEEK, WITH A
RESOLUTE CONGRESS ON THE VERGE OF DENYING FURTHER U.S.
MILITARY AID TO CAMBODIA, 'A SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL' WAS
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HOPPING MAD. 'WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD A NATION
THAT WE PARTLY BROUGHT INTO THIS SITUATION,' HE STORMED,
SLAMMING HIS FIST ON A DESK IN HIS AIR FORCE ONE PLANE.
'I FOR ONE DO NOT WANT TO PULL THE PLUG OUT ON PEOPLE WHOM
WE SUPPLIED WITH WEAPONS SO THAT WE COULD SAVE OUR NECKS
(IN INDOCHINA).'" END TEXT.

LATER IN ARTICLE, AFTER REPORTING CHANGES IN KHMER GOVERN-
MENT AND MILITARY SITUATION, COMES FOLLOWING: BEGIN TEXT:
"THE COMMUNISTS HAVE INSISTED UPON AN UNCONDITIONAL SUR-
RENDER,' THE SAME NONIDENTIFIABLE SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL ON
KISSINGER'S PLANE SAID. 'HOW DO YOU TALK ABOUT THAT?
WHAT CAN I DO?'" END TEXT.

WIRES: LATE UPI ITEM

UPI (ASWAN) -- ". . . KISSINGER MET PRESIDENT SADAT MONDAY
WITH ISRAELI PROPOSALS FOR MORE EGYPTIAN CONCESSIONS AS
THE PRICE FOR A NEW WITHDRAWAL IN THE SINAI DESERT. A
SENIOR OFFICIAL WITH KISSINGER SAID THERE WAS SLOW AND
STEADY PROGRESS IN THE TALKS BUT CONCEDED THE GOING WAS
TOUGH AND THE PROGRESS MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH. . .

"THE AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID THE NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE
GOING A SHADE SLOWER THAN PREDICTED. HE SAID THERE IS
STILL A CHANCE FOR AGREEMENT, HOWEVER, BECAUSE IT APPEARED
IN THE BASIC INTERESTS OF ISRAEL AND EGYPT. ..

"KISSINGER, COMING OUT OF THE MEETING 90 MINUTES LATER,
SAID, 'WE PRESENTED THE ISRAELI IDEAS AND HAD A GOOD TALK.'
HE SAID SADAT AND HIS ADVISERS -- WHO ATTENDED THE FIRST
HALF OF THE MEETING -- WOULD STUDY THE IDEAS AND THAT THE
TWO MEN WOULD MEET AGAIN AT 11 A.M. EGYPTIAN PRESIDENTIAL
SPOKESMAN TAHSEEN BASHIR SAID EGYPT HOPED THE ISRAELI
PROPOSALS WERE A 'FURTHER STEP TOWARD PEACE.'"

TV:

1. ABC-TV EVENING NEWS -- REASONER: "SECRETARY OF STATE
KISSINGER FLEW TO EGYPT TODAY WITH THE PROPOSALS THAT CAME
OUT OF YESTERDAY'S TALKS WITH ISRAELI LEADERS ON A NEW
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SINAI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. A SENIOR OFFICIAL ABOARD
KISSINGER'S PLANE SAID PROGRESS IS SLOW AND STEADY."
(NO KOPPEL)

2. NBC-TV EVENING NEWS -- NO MENTION OF M.E. TRIP.

3. CBS-TV EVENING NEWS -- (SIX MINUTES INTO SHOW) --
RMUDD: "SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER SHUTTLED TO EGYPT
TODAY, TAKING WITH HIM SPECIFIC ISRAELI IDEAS ON A NEW
SINAI AGREEMENT. MARVIN KALB REPORTS THAT ISRAEL HAS
PROPOSED A NINE-POINT PLAN FOR NONBELLIGERENCY, A PLAN
THE ISRAELIS SAY IS CRUCIAL FOR ANY PEACE WITH EGYPT.
ACCORDING TO KALB, THE ISRAELI PLAN INCLUDES AN 'OPEN
BRIDGES' PROGRAM BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, MUCH LIKE
THE EXISTING ONE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN, TO OPEN UP
TRADE OPPORTUNITIES; AN INDIRECT TOURISM PROGRAM, ALLOWING
FOREIGN AIRLINES AND SHIPS TO TRAVEL BACK AND FORTH; AND
A RELAXATION, IN EGYPT, OF THE ARAB BOYCOTT AGAINST
BUSINESSES DEALING WITH ISRAEL." (NO FILMED REPORT)

ROBINSON

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